

**Northern Virginia Regional Strategic Planning Project  
Steering Committee Meeting – Draft Notes  
January 26, 2005**

In Attendance:

Jane Anthony, NVTC Parent/PAIR  
Jo Ellen Armstrong, Snowden at Fredericksburg  
George Barker, HSANV  
John Beghtol, Western State Hospital  
Allen Berenson, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Jessica Burmester, Board Member, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Mark Diorio, NVTC  
Joan Durman, Consultant  
Tom Geib, Prince William CSB  
Mike Gilmore, Alexandria CSB  
Amanda Goza, NVMHI  
Wendy Gradison, PRS  
Betsy Greer, NAMI-Arlington

Anne Hermann, Older Adults Workgroup  
Joe Hinshaw, NVMHI Advisory Council  
Sharon Jones, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Leslie Katz, NVTC  
Cindy Kemp, Arlington CSB  
Jim King, Snowden at Fredericksburg  
Sharon Letourneau, NVMHI  
Cathy Pumphrey, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Lou Rosato, NVMHI  
Jim Thur, Fairfax-Falls Church CSB  
Carol Ulrich, NAMI-NoVA  
L. William Yolton, State Coalition

Jim Thur welcomed the group and introductions were made.

1. Approval of Notes from October 27, 2004 Meeting

The notes of the October 27, 2004 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Announcements

- Jim Thur noted the importance of the meeting in light of recent events including the pending closure of Northern Virginia Community Hospital's psychiatric unit, restructuring guidance from the Commissioner and the need to address state facility issues.
- The revised Partnership Planning Principles were reviewed. Jim Thur asked the chairs of each work group to discuss them at their next meeting and provide any feedback to him.
- Jim Thur drew the group's attention to the latest projections for psychiatric beds in the area. George Barker indicated HCA will continue to operate some surgical beds, an emergency room and some outpatient services at the Northern Virginia Community Hospital, but no inpatient psychiatric beds will be operated after February 8. Jim noted that Snowden has been a valuable participant in the process and the group agreed to add their service capacity information to the chart (16 children/26 adult). There was some discussion regarding the use of hospitals in Maryland and DC, especially for children's services.

3. Updates

- a. Recovery conference – Sharon Letourneau, Chair of the Regional Recovery Work Group, reviewed information on the "Growing Recovery" conference which was held in September 2004. Sharon indicated the work group has a wide variety of representatives from service providers as well as consumers and other interested parties. Their mission is to encourage the implementation of

Recovery principles in our region and they plan to hold an annual conference as well as other educational activities throughout the year. Sharon reviewed the feedback provided by conference participants. Jim Thur thanked Sharon for her presentation and the group's good work in putting the conference together, and asked what further resources the group needs. Sharon replied that more consumers and family members, especially from outside of Fairfax County, are needed to participate in the work group. Wendy Gradison added that transportation support is usually available. Betsy Greer suggested holding the meetings at clubhouses and Carol Ulrich suggested paying consumers to attend, in order to encourage participation. Jim noted that financial support will be available from the region for this year's conference. Sharon indicated the group is looking for assistance with implementing regional WRAP/CELT programs and Jim indicated such requests should go to Mike Gilmore as chair of the NVACSB. Jim thanked Sharon and the work group for their excellent efforts.

- b. Mental Health and related work groups – Jim Thur reported that Sharon Jones of the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB has taken the reins of the Mental Health work group, which last met on December 8. Lynn DeLacy briefly reviewed the revised action plan as it relates to the Mental Health work groups and noted it will be a tight schedule in developing the recommendations for adults and forensic clients. Sharon indicated the Regional Aftercare group is reviewing persons on the Extraordinary Barriers List and what services are needed to discharge those persons to community programs. Sharon noted that she also chairs the DAD Coordinating Committee and reported that higher bed day utilization plus a contract rate increase could result in a substantial deficit for next fiscal year. Jim Thur thanked the members of the Mental Health subgroups for their substantial work. John Beghtol briefly reviewed average daily census data for Western State Hospital, noting the forensic unit is overloaded and average lengths of stay have increased.
- c. Children and Youth work group – Allen Berenson reported the group is getting started and will begin meeting in March. Allen is working with Joan Durman to develop a work plan and there may be a meeting with the private hospitals who provide services to these groups.
- d. Older Adults work group – Anne Hermann indicated the group held one organizational meeting followed by a meeting where they prioritized issues related to older adults. The prioritized list will be submitted as recommendations to be included in the regional report. Anne expressed concern regarding Eastern State Hospital and Jim Thur indicated there was an unsolicited proposal for the takeover of that hospital.
- e. Private psychiatric hospitals update – Jim Thur indicated this group met and had great turnout from both private hospitals and CSBs. The survey data on levels of care was reviewed as well as the proposed model for roles of private and public providers. Joan Durman is developing age and population projections to 2020 as well as the number of treatment beds needed in that time. The group also discussed Temporary Detention Orders and formed a one-time subgroup to meet on that subject.
- f. State work groups – Mark Diorio reported the MR Special Populations Work Group has been reviewing issues and identifying needs, including regional models and possible changes to the catchment areas. Jim Thur noted that if the MR catchment areas are modified, that might also affect mental health services.

#### 4. Revised Organizational Structure

Jim Thur noted the only changes to the Partnership's organizational structure are the addition of an MR work group, who will report directly to the Steering Committee.

5. Revised Action Plan

Jim Thur briefly reviewed the revised action plan.

6. Future Meeting Schedule

The next Steering Committee meeting was scheduled for March 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. including a lunch break. Mental health will be the first item on the agenda.